

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Currently Amended) An explosive ammunition having a fragmenting structure comprising:

an inner shell having an outside surface, said inner shell being for splinter generation;

~~an outer shell having an inside surface;~~

an explosive charge located substantially surrounding the said inner shell;

~~a case enclosing the inner shell; and~~

means for generating a mechanical stress differential at the outside surface of the inner shell during initiation of the explosive charge;

an outer case enclosing the inner shell and said means, wherein:

said inner shell outside surface is for initially transmitting a first force during ~~ammunition~~ initiation of the explosive charge to said means for generating a mechanical stress differential, and

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said means for generating a mechanical stress differential are spatially distributed and upon receipt of said first force ~~is are~~ for transmitting in return a second force oppositely directed to said outer shell inside surface and for transmitting a third oppositely directed force to said inner shell outer surface, for thereby generating a mechanical stress differential ~~is~~ spatially distributed across the inner shell and inducing splinter generation of the inner shell.

2. (Withdrawn) Explosive ammunition as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the means creating a stress differential include an inside surface of the case fitted with an array of salients of which each related mesh is hollow and is bounded by a salient rib making contact with the shell, such a configuration assuring weakening this shell during said initiation along the ribs to generate splinters.

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3. (Previously Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 1, wherein the means for generating a stress differential comprises a netting solidly joined to the case or placed between the case and the shell, said netting constituting a weakening array.

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4. (Previously Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 1, wherein the case is made of plastic.

5. (Previously Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 3, wherein the netting is imbedded in the case.

6. (Previously Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 3, wherein the array is fitted with square elementary meshes.

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7. (Previously Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 1, wherein the shell is made of steel or tungsten.

8. (Previously Amended) The explosive ammunition according to claim 1, wherein the case constitutes a nose cone.

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